

Notes on *Spergularia*

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In his study of *Spergularia* the writer has given some attention to the genus as it occurs in the northern part of the Cayuga Lake Basin, N. Y., and to the collections by K. M. Wiegand, W. C. Muenscher, and R. T. Clausen deposited in the Cornell University Herbarium. *Muenscher 16953*, from an island by Cayuga Bridge, N. Y., April 15, 1927, and *Clausen 4026*, from Savannah Township, Wayne County, N. Y., August 31, 1939, are especially interesting. Cayuga Bridge at Cayuga is near the northern end of Cayuga Lake and Savannah Township is some miles farther north, embracing part of the Montezuma Marsh area.

Muenscher 16953 from Cayuga Bridge agrees quite well with Rossbach's (1940) description of *Spergularia media* (L.) Presl. and it is so labeled in the herbarium. Plants grown in the greenhouse from seeds of this collection had 9-10 stamens, a character of *S. media*. Although Rossbach gives the seeds of *S. media* as usually winged, all of the seeds of *Muenscher 16953*, as represented by the greenhouse-grown plants, are winged, so far as a careful check of the seeds in two capsules showed. All shattered out seeds in a packet on the herbarium sheet are also winged. Rossbach describes the petals of *S. media* as white. The plants grown in the greenhouse had petals which were pink, but whitish toward the base. Mounted herbarium specimens of these greenhouse plants still show the pink color. The same color appears in some flower material in the packet attached to the herbarium sheet, *Muenscher 16953*.

Clausen 4026 from Savannah Township is a different kind of *Spergularia*. Plants grown in the greenhouse from seeds of this collection had 3-6 stamens, averaging about 4. In a complete check of the seeds in 12 capsules, 35 percent of the total number of seeds was winged and 65 percent was not winged. Wiegand's (1920) original description of *S. alata* specifies stamens 4-6 and all seeds winged. All of the 79 seeds in one capsule of a co-type specimen, *F. P. Metcalf & K. M. Wiegand 6406*, Montezuma, N. Y., July 4, 1916, Cornell University Herbarium, were found to be winged. An examination of the seeds in the packet on the herbarium sheet, *A. J. Eames, L. F. Randolph, & K. M. Wiegand 12004* from Montezuma, N. Y., September 9, 1919, labeled *S. alata* Wiegand, reveals, however, that some of the seeds are not winged. It seems evident that the *Spergularia* denominated *S. alata* by Wiegand may have both seeds winged and seeds not winged even though the original type and co-type specimens produced winged seeds only. *Clausen 4026* is interpreted as *S. alata* Wiegand and it is so labeled in the herbarium, but it is a somewhat pubescent form of the species.

The following table shows some comparisons of the Muenscher and Clausen collections. The data were obtained from plants grown in the greenhouse from seeds of these collections.

	<i>Muenscher 16953</i> <i>S. media</i>	<i>Clausen 4026</i> <i>S. alata</i>
Ave. no. seeds per capsule.....	137	60
Variation in no. seeds per capsule.....	119-155	48-76
Percent seeds winged, all capsules.....	100	35
Percent seeds not winged, all capsules.....	0	65
Ave. number stamens per flower.....	9-10	4
Variation in no. stamens per flower.....	9-10	3-6

Rossbach (1940) holds to the view that *S. alata*, as described by Wiegand (1920), should be included in *S. media* and does not consider that the former species has sufficient taxonomic distinctiveness to warrant a separate identity. *Muenscher 16953* from Cayuga Bridge, now regarded as *S. media*, and *Clausen 4026* from Savannah Township, judged to be *S. alata*, supply evidence in support of the maintenance of the separation.

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